Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) An immunoassay for detecting exposure to *Leishmania* parasites in a subject comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample from the subject suspected of having leishmaniasis with a soluble antigen prepared by [utilizing] culturing the *Leishmania* parasites in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent; and

detecting the presence or measuring the amount of an antibody or fragment thereof in the sample bound to the soluble antigen.

3. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the protein-free medium further comprises at least one of the following ingredients: Hepes buffer, L-glutamine and sodium bicarbonate without phenol red.

4. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the antibody is IgG or IgM and is specific for a Leishmania antigen.

5. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the sample is a serum sample.

6. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 5, wherein the serum sample is modified by diluting it 1:1000 in blocking buffer having 1.0% boiled casein.

7. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said immunoassay is capable of diagnosing visceral, cutaneous or canine leishmaniasis in a subject.

8. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the *Leishmania* [soluble antigen preparation is prepared by using] parasites are clones of *Leishmania donovani*, [or] *Leishmania mexicana*, or a combination thereof.

11. (Amended) [A] The kit [for the diagnosis of leishmaniasis in a subject comprising a substrate and a soluble antigen] of claim 45, wherein the soluble antigen is of either *L. donovani* or *L. mexicana* [prepared by utilizing a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent packaged together for multiple or single use assays].

12. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, wherein the substrate is coated with the soluble antigen.

13. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a positive control.

14. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a negative control.

15. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a diluent.

16. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising an anti-human IgG conjugated to a label.

17. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a substrate chromogen.

18. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a substrate buffer.

19. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a blocking buffer.

20. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising a stopping solution.

27. (Amended) The kit of claim [11] 45, further comprising instructions.

29. (Amended) A diagnostic device comprising a *Leishmania* soluble antigen prepared by [utilizing] culturing a *Leishmania* parasite in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent and a means for detecting an antibody bound to the *Leishmania* soluble antigen.